

**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1 through 12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13. (Currently amended) An apparatus for applying a coating to articles, comprising:

- (i) supply means arranged to provide a curtain of solidifiable liquid coating material, said supply means having a surface along which the solidifiable liquid coating material flows;
- (ii) means for effecting relative movement between articles ~~are to be~~ coated and the supply means whereby in use the articles are coated with solidifiable liquid coating material in the curtain; and
- (iii) means arranged to subject the solidifiable liquid coating material to the action of at least one stream of gas on the surface whereby to modify the flow characteristics of the curtain, wherein the articles are articles of food and the solidifiable liquid coating material is an edible coating material.

Claims 14 through 16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17. (Currently amended) An apparatus for controlling a curtain of a solidifiable liquid composition comprising:

- (i) supply means arranged to provide a curtain of solidifiable liquid coating material, said supply means having a surface along which the solidifiable liquid coating material flows; and
- (ii) means arranged to subject the solidifiable liquid coating material to the action of at least one stream of gas attached to the surface whereby to modify the characteristics of the curtain, wherein the solidifiable liquid coating material is an edible coating material.

Claim 18. (Previously presented) An apparatus for coating articles, comprising:

means for supplying a solidifiable liquid coating material, said supply means having a surface along which the solidifiable liquid coating material flows;

an outlet slot positioned downstream of the supply means through which the solidifiable liquid coating material flows under the action of gravity to form a curtain;

means for effecting relative movement between the articles and the supply means whereby in use the articles are coated with the solidifiable liquid coating material in the curtain;  
and

means for introducing a first gas stream between the surface and the solidifiable liquid coating material so that flow characteristics of the curtain are modified.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 18~~ An apparatus for coating articles, comprising:

means for supplying a solidifiable liquid coating material, said supply means having a surface along which the solidifiable liquid coating material flows;

an outlet slot positioned downstream of the supply means through which the solidifiable liquid coating material flows under the action of gravity to form a curtain;

means for effecting relative movement between the articles and the supply means whereby in use the articles are coated with the solidifiable liquid coating material in the curtain;  
and

means for introducing a first gas stream between the surface and the solidifiable liquid coating material so that flow characteristics of the curtain are modified, wherein the articles are articles of food and the solidifiable liquid coating material is an edible coating material.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the edible coating material is chocolate.

Claim 21. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the supply means includes a trough having opposed surfaces leading towards the slot, and the first gas stream introducing means is arranged to introduce the first gas stream between the solidifiable liquid coating material and each of the opposed surfaces.

Claim 22. (Currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising~~ An apparatus for coating articles, comprising:

means for supplying a solidifiable liquid coating material, said supply means having a surface along which the solidifiable liquid coating material flows;

an outlet slot positioned downstream of the supply means through which the solidifiable liquid coating material flows under the action of gravity to form a curtain;

means for effecting relative movement between the articles and the supply means whereby in use the articles are coated with the solidifiable liquid coating material in the curtain;

means for introducing a first gas stream between the surface and the solidifiable liquid coating material so that flow characteristics of the curtain are modified; and

means for introducing a second gas stream to the solidifiable liquid coating material after the curtain has been established in order to change a direction of the curtain and/or a physical property of the solidifiable liquid coating material forming the curtain.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising a curved surface positioned adjacent a portion of the curtain, wherein the second gas stream introducing means is arranged to cause the second gas stream to flow over the curved surface by virtue of ~~the~~ a Coanda effect to induce a change in a direction of travel of the curtain.

Claim 24. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising a controller for controlling a pressure of the first and/or second gas streams.

Claim 25. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a controller for controlling a pressure of the first gas stream.

Claims 26-32. (Cancelled)

Claim 33. (New) An apparatus for coating a food article, comprising:  
a wall along which a coating of solidifiable edible coating material flows;  
an outlet slot positioned downstream of the wall, the outlet slot defining a curtain of the coating under the action of gravity;  
a device for effecting relative movement between the food article and the curtain so that the food article is coated by the coating; and  
a gas stream defined between the wall and the coating so that flow characteristics of the curtain are modified.

Claim 34. (New) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the supply means includes a trough having opposed surfaces leading towards the slot, and the first gas stream introducing means is arranged to introduce the first gas stream between the solidifiable liquid coating material and each of the opposed surfaces.

Claim 35. (New) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a controller for controlling a pressure of the first gas stream.